**Edmund Rice Secondary School, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary**

**Parents Council**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**06.11.2019**

Meeting of the Parents Council took place on Wednesday 6th November 2019.

**Present:** Mairead Eachthigheirn

Michael Walsh

Linda Barry

Paula Murphy

Ann Reid

Aideen Meaney

Fiona O’Meara

Rose Peters

Karen Nolan

Abigail Keane

JoJo O’Meara

Shauna Harte

Maria McGowan

Collette Quigley

Ann Kearns

Siobhan Cummins

**Apologies:** Claire Walsh

Margaret Crowley

Deirdre Anthony

Deirdre Flynn

Tony Power

Elaine McNamara

Michael Crowley

1. Chairperson welcomed everyone back and introduced the new committee members.
2. Minutes were read and approved.
3. There was a discussion about the school’s soft drinks policy. Sunnyside Café, who provide lunches to the school, had implemented a ‘water’ only policy with their meal deals but noted that students were buying soft drinks elsewhere. They asked if they could re-implement selling these to the students. The Principal commented that the school now has an environmental policy of using re-usable water bottles. A vote was taken by the Parents Council and it was decided to stay with ‘water only policy’. Sunnyside Café were to be informed of this decision.

**[Action: Mairead Eachthigheirn]**

1. The Principal gave his report.

- The school was doing well. There had been a successful and positive Open Night.

- The Astro Turf Pitch had opened.

- A new gym had been opened in Room 9.

- First Year’s were settling in well.

- Great headway was being made with implementing the no litter policy.

- A new school Caretaker had been appointed.

- New Zebra crossing across the car park to ensure student safety.

- Miss Gleeson was leaving to take up the position as Deputy Principal in Callan. The Parent’s Council noted she would be missed and thanked her for all her hard work.

- Transition Year Programme was going well. TY students had participated in intergenerational art mosaic and gardening in the local library. Four TY students had attended training in WIT for Science Week in order to tutor primary school students.

- The social and holistic element in the school was growing with participation in such projects as the Junior St Vincent de Paul, Green Schools and the Junior Choir.

- The new library funded by the Parents Council was open and working well.

- Great improvements had been made in the wearing of the school uniform amongst students. Parents were reminded all students must wear uniform when attending all outside school events when representing the school.

- The lockers have not been changed but the new caretaker had implemented a new numbering and maintenance system.

1. Fundraising was discussed. There will be a fundraiser on 13 December to raise money for the St. Vincent de Paul and TY students were participating in a sponsored walk in late November to raise money for Meals Assistance and the Day Care Centre. The Parents Council will run their annual church gate collection in late February 2020. The Board of Management intend to organise a Golf Classic in May 2020 and will need the support of the Parents Council.

**[Action: Paula Murphy and Fiona O’Meara]**

1. The school has now implanted the online payment system and VSWare and logins have been sent to all parents.
2. The Principal informed the meeting the school is trying to encourage parents to use the website and social media as the main forms of communication with the school. It is planned that texts will no longer be the main form of communication with parents as they are expensive and when Maura, the school secretary, retires there will no longer be anyone responsible for communicating to the parents by text. The website and social media are now constantly being updated.
3. This concluded the business of the meeting.
4. Next meeting will take place on Wednesday 29th January 2020.